

CLAIMS

1. An isoflavone-containing composition which comprises
15 to 95% by weight of malonyl isoflavone glycosides, 0 to
50% by weight of isoflavones other than malonyl isoflavone
5 glycosides and 5 to 60% by weight of saponins, by taking
the sum of the total amounts of isoflavones and saponins in
said composition as 100% by weight.
2. The isoflavone-containing composition according to
10 Claim 1, which is prepared from soybean hypocotyls as the
starting material.
3. The isoflavone-containing composition according to
Claim 1, wherein the proportion of group A saponins in
15 saponins is 55% by weight or more, by taking the total
amount of saponins in said composition as 100% by weight.
4. The isoflavone-containing composition according to
Claim 1, which has a water solubility of at least 20 mg/100
20 ml at 25°C based on the amount of isoflavones.
5. A process for producing the isoflavone-containing
composition according to Claim 2, which comprises the step
of extracting soybean hypocotyls with 15 to 95% by volume
25 aqueous ethanol at 10 to 50°C.

6. A process for producing the isoflavone-containing composition according to Claim 2, which comprises the steps of:

5 (A) extracting soybean hypocotyls with 15 to 95% by volume aqueous ethanol at 10 to 50°C to obtain an extract;

(B) bringing a solution of the extract obtained by the step (A) in water into contact with a nonpolar adsorbent resin to allow isoflavones to be adsorbed to the resin; and

10 (C) eluting isoflavones from the adsorbent resin with 15 to 40% by volume aqueous ethanol.

7. An edible composition containing the isoflavone-containing composition according to Claim 1.

15 8. A process for fractionating isoflavones and saponins, which comprises extracting soybean hypocotyls with 15 to 95% by volume aqueous ethanol at 10 to 50°C to obtain an extract, bringing a solution of the extract in water into
20 contact with a nonpolar adsorbent resin, eluting an isoflavone-containing fraction from the adsorbent resin with 15 to 40% by volume aqueous ethanol, and then eluting a saponin-containing fraction from the adsorbent resin with 65 to 90% by volume aqueous ethanol.